

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

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TAGS: ABLD, PFOR, AFSP, UR, US

SUBJECT: MOSCOW NEW EMBASSY COMPLEX

1. FBO ARCHITECT HELLMANN, ACCOMPANIED BY ADMIN COUNSELOR AND OFFICER, MET APRIL 28 WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN NEW EMBASSY PROJECT, INCLUDING UPDK DEPUTY DIRECTOR VORONIN, CHIEF MOSPOREKT 1 ROCHAGOV, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND MFA REPRESENTATIVES. PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, WITH SOVIETS STRESSING THROUGHOUT NEED FOR EARLY DELIVERY RUSSIAN TRANSLATION OF US DRAWINGS TO ENABLE ADEQUATE STUDY FOR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

2. ROCHAGOV PROJECTED FOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR SUBSEQUENT STEPS: RECEIPT OF TRANSLATIONS JUNE '76; REVIEW BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND PROJECT SPECIALISTS JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER; RESOLUTION CHANGES AND/OR PROBLEM AREAS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER; PREPARATION OF FINAL DRAWINGS BY SOVIETS AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS; CONTRACT SIGNATURE AND POSSIBLE INITIATION CONSTRUCTION IN 1978. THIS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ASSUMES ALL PROJECT DRAWINGS WOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SIGNED.

3. IN COURSE CONVERSATIONS SOVIETS NOTED THAT DESIGN PHASE WORK IN USSR TYPICALLY COSTS ABOUT 7 PERCENT OF TOTAL PROJECT COST, VS. 5 OR 6 PERCENT IN US PRACTICE. OTHER COST QUESTIONS WERE SIDESTEPED PENDING OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY PLANS IN TRANS-
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LATION. FOR OUR INFORMATION VORONIN PROMISED TO PROVIDE

HELLMANN WITH SAMPLES STANDARD SOVIET CONTRACTS. HE AND ROCHAGOV ALSO ASKED ABOUT US PLANS FOR SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO COORDINATE, NOTING FRENCH PRECEDENT (CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FRENCH EMBASSY SCHEDULED START EARLY MAY), WHERE INITIAL REGULAR VISITS EVERY MONTH TO SIX WEEKS PROVED HELPFUL FOLLOWED BY RESIDENT SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTOR, WHO ACTS AS SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT. US REPRESENTATIVES SAID WE ENVISIONED SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH PERIODIC EXPERT VISITS AND RESIDENT TEAM, BUT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON SOVIET WORK SCHEDULE AND ANCILLARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR WAREHOUSING, ETC.

4. AT ONE POINT IN TALKS, MFA CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE (GRACHOV) LAUNCHED PROPOSAL FOR "FAST-TRACKING" TO ENABLE SIGNATURE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS BY PHASES, E.G. START EXCAVATION OR APARTMENTS EARLY RATHER THAN TREAT PROJECT AS A WHOLE. HE STARTED INTO QUESTION DELAY ON SOVIET CONSTRUCTION START IN WASHINGTON, BUT LINE OF DISCUSSION FIZZLED WHEN OTHER SOVIETS FAILED TO PURSUE IT.

5. COMMENT - TONE OF DISCUSSIONS WAS FRIENDLY, HELPFUL AND REALISTIC (WITH EXCEPTION GRACHOV'S BRIEF INDIVIDUAL FORAY). PROVISION OF BLUEPRINT AND DRAWING TRANSLATIONS BY US IS CLEARLY KEY TO KEEP BALL ROLLING AND EMBASSY URGES EVERY EFFORT TO MEET OR ACCELERATE TWO MONTH TIME FRAME. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER APPROACHING FRANCH FOR INFORMATION ON, OR COPIES OF, CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR THEIR NEW EMBASSY, WHICH MAY GIVE USEFUL INSIGHTS TO SOVIET PROCEDURES. END COMMENT.

STOESSEL

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